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Identical letters dated 8 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write the present letter of complaint regarding a very serious incident of vital importance to the United Nations. Today, 8 January 2009, three Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into Israel, striking the area of Nahariya. One of the rockets hit a nursing home and as a result, two elderly women were wounded.

This attack represents a blatant violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). It proves that terrorist groups remain active in southern Lebanon and that weapons continue to be smuggled into Lebanese territory — including the area of operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). For over two years, Israel has repeatedly alerted the Council and the United Nations regarding the ongoing transfer of weapons to southern Lebanon and into the hands of Hizbullah and other terrorist groups. Such a phenomenon constitutes a threat to regional peace and security, as today's provocative act sought to destabilize the region and draw Israel into a larger conflict as it confronts Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

Today's attack clearly demonstrates that the Government of Lebanon must take all necessary action to fully implement resolution 1701 (2006). Israel holds the Government of Lebanon responsible for ensuring that its territory is not used for hostile activities against Israel, and for taking all measures to prevent the smuggling of weapons into its territory. In this respect, the prevention of arms smuggling — in Lebanon as in the Gaza Strip — is a vital element in achieving regional stability.

Additionally, today's event further strengthens Israel's demand that UNIFIL engage in robust action in order to discharge its mandate to establish in its area of operation an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL. To this end, UNIFIL must conduct a thorough investigation and take the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of this attack. Furthermore, Israel demands the implementation of effective mechanisms to ensure that weapons are not smuggled into Lebanon.

I wish to reiterate that Israel will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens from the escalating threat of terrorism.

09-20547 (E) 120109

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative